

**Nevada Department of Education
Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE)
Wednesday, May 11, 2016 - 9:00 A.M.**

Meeting Locations

NV Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street
Board Room
Carson City, NV 89701

and

NV Department of Education
9890 S. Maryland Parkway
2nd Floor, Board Room
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Minutes

Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:14 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Roll call completed as indicated.

Members in Attendance

Denette Suddeth, Chair
Senator Patricia Farley
Jennifer Hoy

Kelcey West
Stacie Wilke
Amanda Williams

Members Absent

Stavan Corbett
Assemblyman John Hambrick

Billie Jo Hogan
Julie Williams

Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Staff Members

Cynthia Santos, Education Programs Professional
Tricia Cook, Administrative Assistant

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General (DAG)

Public Comment #1

No public comment.

Flexible Agenda Approval

Member Hoy made a motion to approve a flexible agenda.

Member Farley seconded the motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes ([Item 4](#)) from April 14th.

Member West made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Member Farley seconded the motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE)

Updates

Cynthia Santos, NDE Education Programs Professional, Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement gave the following updates:

Sunset Subcommittee:

Cynthia and Member Hoy provided an update from their April 21 presentation ([Item 5A](#)) to the Sunset Subcommittee. The Sunset Subcommittee will discuss the PIFE Council in their upcoming work session on June 16, 2016.

Chief Principal Research Analyst, Carol Stonefield, inquired about additional Bill Draft Requests (BDR) the Council would like the Sunset Subcommittee to review. Council members discussed the following BDRs ([Item 5A3](#)):

- Legislative reports to be due February 1 of each year.
- Change Council's name to Advisory Council for Family Engagement
- Change language in NRS 385.620 to reflect name change
- Changes to Council's composition: Council members discussed the changes to the composition in greater detail. Member Farley suggested the two legislative seats on the Council be non-voting advisory seats. Additionally, she supported the creation of two voting seats for non-legislators who would be appointed by the two legislative seats on the Council or by the Majority Leader of the Senate and Speaker of the Assembly. Member Farley advocated for language in the BDR to state mandatory meeting attendance to two meetings legislators. Chair Suddeth stated that content for mandatory meetings would be meaningful.

Member Farley made a motion to approve the above listed BDR requests as stated.

Member West seconded the motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

State Education Authority Phone Calls:

The Florida Department of Education (FDE) Director of Family and Community Engagement shared information with state liaisons regarding Attendance Texting ([Item 5B](#)), a family engagement strategy. This texting service informs families on school happenings, information on their student's attendance, and provides information on available resources.

Chair Suddeth asked if Infinite Campus (IC) could perform this function. Member Hoy explained that IC does not have this feature, but in some schools phone calls are placed when a child is absent. Vice Chair Hoy asked if this service was similar to Remind and inquired how school districts were complying with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Additionally, she wanted to know how contact information was kept up to date. Cynthia will follow up with FDE's Director.

Information on the Home Visitation Project Analysis ([Item 5C](#)) was shared as home visits are an area of interest to the Council. The report highlights the success twelve DC schools are having with the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project.

Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Required Licensure Course Pursuant to NRS 385.457:

The Office has added courses to the list of approved courses. The Office of Educator Licensure and Educator Preparation have links to the Parental Involvement and Family Engagement webpage where newly licensed teachers can view approved courses.

The Office is working with Western Governors University (WGU) and Nevada State College to approve their family engagement course.

Office Budget Work Program and Possible Request for Additional Funding for FY17:

Cynthia provided an update on the work program to the Council and asked members if they would like to request additional funds during the 2017 legislative session.

Cynthia indicated there was funding in the budget to pay for the northern Council members to attend the June 8th meeting in Las Vegas and asked for the Council's approval to start making travel arrangements. Chair Suddeth asked if the current vacancy would be filled by June 8 and if so, would the individual be traveling to Las Vegas in June. Cynthia will check with Deputy Superintendent Durish for an update on the vacant seat.

Member Farley made a motion to fly northern committee members to Las Vegas for the June 8th meeting.

Member Hoy seconded the motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Cynthia asked the Council for a list of other requests for the FY17 budget enhancement. Chair Suddeth stated the Council would like to budget for the three travel events listed below in FY17 and for the Summit and legislative session to take place in opposite fiscal years. Cynthia explained that historically the Summit was held in the spring of

even numbered years, which would allow for the Summit and legislative session to take place in alternating years. Vice Chair Hoy reminded the Council about statewide testing and opted to keep the Summit in the fall.

The Council discussed three travel events they would like to request additional funding for:

- Bring Council members from the North to Las Vegas to attend the October Family Engagement Summit. October Council meeting would be held in conjunction with this travel.
- In person meeting in Carson City in conjunction with the Legislative Education Day during the 2017 legislative session.
- Funding to send one or two members to the National Family and Community Engagement Conference every year.

Member Farley made a motion for the budget enhancement request to include funding for:

- 1) All Council members to attend the Summit every two years.***
- 2) All Council members to attend the legislative day on education***
- 3) Have two Council members attend the annual family engagement conference.***
- 4) Pay for substitutes for teacher seats on the Council.***

Member Hoy seconded the motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Member Farley made an amended motion to request additional funding to have the Council's budget cover the sub cost for any teacher on the Council regardless of the seat they fill.

Member Hoy seconded the amended motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the amended motion carried unanimously.

Nevada Family Engagement Summit Steering Committee:

Registration is now open and the website has been updated to include flyers and links to registration.

The following have committed to being a sponsor, vendor or donor: Andson, Silver State Schools Credit Union, Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Immunize Nevada, JustServ.org, Springs Preserve, Academica, Nevada STEM Coalition, Children's Advocacy Alliance, Sparkly Tees, Wynn Resorts, and Ivory Star Productions.

Speakers:

- Steve Constantino will most likely be the Summit's keynote speaker. He will also provide professional development during the Superintendent's dinner and two workshops.
- The Keynote Subcommittee was in talks with WestEd about holding an APTT lunch panel with Maria Paredes. The Steering Committee is determining if the cost fits within the budget.
- If it is determined that the Steering Committee cannot afford to work with WestEd, the Subcommittee will look into other speakers. The Sacramento Parent Teacher Home Visit Project is currently being considered. Chair Suddeth requested that all Council members to be invited to the Superintendents' Dinner on October 14, 2016.

The deadline for Request for Proposals (RFP) to present a workshop is May 31st. The Council was encouraged to share the RFP with their networks.

Las Vegas Downtown Achieves & Las Vegas My Brother's Keeper

Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler, City of Las Vegas Director, Department of Youth Development and Social Innovation. Joseph Morgan, Assistant Professor of Special Education Programs, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and Dr. Tiffany Tyler of Nevada Partners, My Brother's Keeper gave a presentation ([Item 6](#)) on two programs impacting Las Vegas youth and their family engagement efforts.

Dr. Hibbler explained the Las Vegas Downtown Achieves was created in 2014 to improve academics for students in poverty and has grown into a movement to provide wrap around services and resources to ensure all children can achieve and be successful. My Brother's Keeper was initially created from President Obama's initiative in looking at achievement of minority students with an emphasis on African American males. Both programs operate on a collective impact model, where all entities involved have an equal voice and everyone works together towards the common goal.

Downtown Achieves created a very intensive structured needs assessment to determine family priority needs. The assessment was available in a variety of formats, and staff put extensive efforts into gathering parent feedback at schools and community events. They have found parents want to engage, but don't always know how. Downtown achieves focuses on creating environments that encourage building relationships with families in the community.

Chair Suddeth inquired on a possible future follow up survey and if it would be to the same intensity level. Joe indicated to get this large of a response it takes over a year, so their plan is to do the extensive survey every three to five years to make sure priorities are still in line. If the organization has made an impact, the priorities should change.

In response to Chair Suddeth's inquiry of the presenters' observations of the biggest successes, Dr. Tyler pointed to attendance gains, and decrease in disciplinary issues. as well as the ability to work across sectors/entities has greatly improved, even expanding into partnerships with law enforcement and school districts to provide wrap around support to families that would likely enter into family or juvenile services. The nonprofits are not competing; everyone is at the table working together on how each can contribute what they do best. It is critical to use resources wisely and communicate with each other.

Dr. Hibbler stated the schools with the strongest leaders have the biggest success and they understand the importance of the wrap around services. From a community standpoint, it's been beneficial for parents feel they have a place where they fit in their child's development.

Family Engagement in a Bilingual Charter School

Dr. Chris McBride, Director, and Yolanda Moreno, Parent Involvement Facilitator, at Mariposa Academy gave a presentation on Mariposa Academy's family engagement efforts ([Item 7](#)).

Mariposa Academy started in 2002 in the Reno City gym with 60 students. Family engagement has been a top priority since the school was founded, with one of the requirements being parent involvement; parents know this is an expectation. All families are required to volunteer 20 hours per year, and 100% of families meet the expectation. Dr. McBride stated it's important to assist parents in their ability to help maximize their student's achievement.

Mariposa focuses on ways to bring families in to their events. Events and programs include home visits, magic carpet night of math, a block party that involves the whole community, bring fathers/mothers to school day, Student of the Month, weekly Mariposa in the garden wellness classes in conjunction with UNR, and Parent University classes, which help parents understand the new math and science standards and learn tactics to keep the children in the positive mind frame to continue with their education. Mariposa is respected beacon of the community. They hold events open to the whole community, including free immunization and flu vaccinations for the community beyond the students and their families and they are fortunate not to have their grounds fenced in.

The school is bilingual based, and offers a \$2000 signing bonus incentive for bilingual educators. The school has a full time Parent Involvement Facilitator paid for with Title I funding and events are paid for with fund raising efforts.

There are currently 165 students enrolled, including pre-k. Member Hoy inquired if students are admitted on an application process. Dr. McBride stated the schools capacity is about 170-180 students and so they are taking students in as they register. Once the school is at capacity, state law mandates a lottery enrollment process.

Member Wilke inquired if the level of parental involvement continued on as the child moved to middle and high school. Mariposa indicated it doesn't continue as much, but this is mostly due to the fact that the kids don't want their parents to be as involved.

Member West asked if there are any issues with parents being on campus without any type of background check? Dr. McBride noted the school does not run background checks because they believe that would be prohibitive of having the open environment Mariposa prides itself on, but they understand the liability, and have a policy that parents are never with students unsupervised.

In response to Chair Suddeth's question if there is anything the PIFE Council can do for Mariposa, Dr. McBride stated the current lack of a weighted funding formula for English Language Learning (ELL) students has resulted in Mariposa not having an ELL teacher on staff. He noted the difficulty in justifying a position fully dedicated to parent

involvement when the school does not have a position to specifically serve ELL students and going forward is going to become more critical for schools like Mariposa to move to a weighted ELL student funding formula.

Advisory Council for Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Legislative Report

Members reviewed the draft of the Council's report for the Legislative Committee on Education pursuant to NRS 385.620.

Member West made a motion to approve the report as presented with a caveat modifications could be made based on the content of the June Council meeting.

Member Wilke seconded the motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Overview

Russell Keglovits, NDE Education Programs Professional and Diane Mugford, NDE Education Programs Professional from Assessment, Data & Accountability Management presented ([Item #9](#)) on the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and its implementation in Nevada.

Russ and Diane gave a history of federal legislation regarding elementary and secondary education, including No Child Left Behind, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and corresponding ESEA Waiver, and what is known so far about ESSA.

Russ noted the new level of accountability will lead to meaningful differentiating of schools.

Chair Suddeth noted the impact that can be made in the State of Nevada now that ESSA gives the individual states more freedom to make decisions. Russ agreed that we are in the position to decide what the standards of excellence are for our state and noted the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) will give us a much better measure of student performance in our state in relation to other states. He pointed to the opportunity to see where we really sit, draw some lines through the distribution.

Future Agenda Items

Chair Suddeth stated future PIFE Council meeting dates will be discussed in June. She noted the Council will not meet in July, starting in August will move to a bi-monthly full day meeting schedule. She noted due to Open Meeting Law, any meeting that does not have quorum needs to be cancelled.

She pointed to the importance of making sure new council members coming in can hit the ground running, and asked the Council to brainstorm on what tools would help them get up to speed.

- Create an orientation document and electronic folder to include PIFE Council NRS, current work plan, open meeting law, previous year's budget, link to website to view previous meeting minutes, and the Sunset Committee presentation.
- Member Hoy suggested an hour long orientation with the new member before their first meeting. Orientation to be run by Cynthia and/or Dena with the new member and one other council member.

Public Comment #2

No public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:09